

1. Name: Ruble House

2. Planning Area/Site Number:

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 6  
G-16

4. Address: White Grounds Road, Boyds

5. Classification Summary

Category building  
Ownership private  
Public Acquisition NA  
Status unoccupied  
Accessible yes; unrestricted  
Present use other: none

Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC  
Title and Date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976

Federal      State X County X Local     

6. Date:

7. Original Owner: Jacob Ruble

8. Apparent Condition

a. deteriorated b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This three bay by one bay, 1½ story, L-shaped house faces south-east. The house is log and has patterned asphalt siding. The southeast (front) porch has a half-hipped roof supported by three square wooden posts. The southeast door is missing. The house has one-over-one double hung windows. The gable roof has raised seam metal covering. There is a north-east exterior end chimney. The southeast front door opens into the northeast room. Northwest of this room is the kitchen and to the southwest is another room, probably used as a bedroom. A closed string winder stairway ascends along the northwest interior wall of the northeast room. The floors are random width. The walls and ceilings reveal a variety of coverings: wooden paneling, plaster over lath, and plasterboard. There are wooden paneled doors with simple door frames. Hand-hewn logs form the roof, but the logs are gradually disintegrating. Black tar paper has been nailed to the logs, and siding added. The outhouse is north of the house. It has a shed roof and faces west. The house is in poor condition and is set on an overgrown lot.

10. Significance: The house is typical of 19th century, rural architecture, built by people of moderate means. Although the owners were white, the house is located within a black neighborhood in Boyds.

Jacob Ruble, a German immigrant, bought 3.9 acres of land in 1851 from James Emory Williams, who subdivided his plot, "Gum Spring". Ruble's wife, Anna, was a practitioner of holistic medicine, using various herbs and roots to prepare medicines and salves. Anna Ruble was called to visit both the black and white communities, healing the sick.

In 1958, Ruble descendants deeded the property to Benjamin Franklin Ruble who sold it to Clarence M. Atwood in 1974. Atwood died intestate, and his heirs sold the property to the present owners in 1974.

11. Researcher and date researched: Candy Reed - Arch. Description  
Christine R. Jaycox - 4/79

12. Compiler: Peg Coleman

13. Date Compiled: 6/79

14. Designation  
Approval     

15. Acreage: 3.87 acres

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 18-8/8

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ruble Log House

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

White Grounds Road

CITY, TOWN

Boyd's

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

☒ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

—OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

#### PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: none

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rockville Crushed Stone, Inc.

Telephone #: 762-9307

STREET & NUMBER

13900 Piney Meetinghouse Road

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20854

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4583

Folio #: 149

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

—FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:18-8-8

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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This three bay by one bay, one and a half story, L-shaped house faces southeast.

The house is log and has patterned asphalt siding. The southeast (front) porch has a half-hipped roof supported by three square wooden posts. The southeast door is missing. The house has one-over-one double-hung windows. The gable roof has raised seam metal covering. There is a northeast exterior end chimney.

The southeast front door opens into the northeast room. Northwest of this room is the kitchen and to the southwest is another room, probably used as a bedroom. A closed string winder stairway ascends along the northwest interior wall of the northeast room. The floors are random width. The walls and ceilings reveal a variety of coverings: wooden paneling, plaster over lath, and plasterboard. There are wooden paneled doors with simple door frames.

Hand-hewn logs form the roof, but the logs are gradually disintegrating. Black tar paper has been nailed to the logs, and siding added.

The outhouse is north of the house. It has a shed roof and faces west. The house is in poor condition and is set on an overgrown lot. A hand dug stone-faced well is behind the house. Stone steps to a cellar lead beneath the house from outside.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:18-8-8

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		local history
				folklore

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house is typical of 19th century, rural architecture, built by people of moderate means. Although the owners were white, the house is located within a black neighborhood in the Boyds Historic District.

Jacob Ruble, a German immigrant, bought 3.9 acres of land in 1851 from James Emory Williams, who subdivided his plot, Gum Spring.<sup>1</sup> Ruble's wife, Anna, was a practitioner of holistic medicine, using various herbs and roots to prepare medicines and salves. Anna Ruble was called to visit both the black and white communities, healing the sick.<sup>2</sup> For example, the grand-nephew of James A. Boyd, James Boyd Maughlin, was treated by her for a severe facial burn, and recovered with no scar.<sup>3</sup> Another account concerns the son of the minister of St. Mark's Methodist Church who was seriously ill. Ruble treated the child daily, using her preparations, and the child recovered.<sup>4</sup>

In 1958, Ruble descendants deeded the property to Benjamin Franklin Ruble<sup>5</sup> who sold it to Clarence M. Atwood in 1974.<sup>6</sup> Atwood died intestate, and his heirs sold the property to the present owners in 1974.

## FOOTNOTES:

- 1 EBP 14/239(1851).
- 2 Mrs. Edna Duffin Johnson, Boyds; Mrs. Eleanor Maughlin Young, Kensington; interviews, 1978.
- 3 Mrs. Young
- 4 Mrs. Johnson
- 5 1478/600(1958).
- 6 2519/179(1974).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, Rockville, Maryland.

Interview: Mrs. Edna Duffin Johnson, Boyds, Maryland.

Interview: Mrs. Eleanor Maughlin Young, Kensington, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.87 acres

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christine R. JaycoxCandy Reed - Arch. Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

April 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

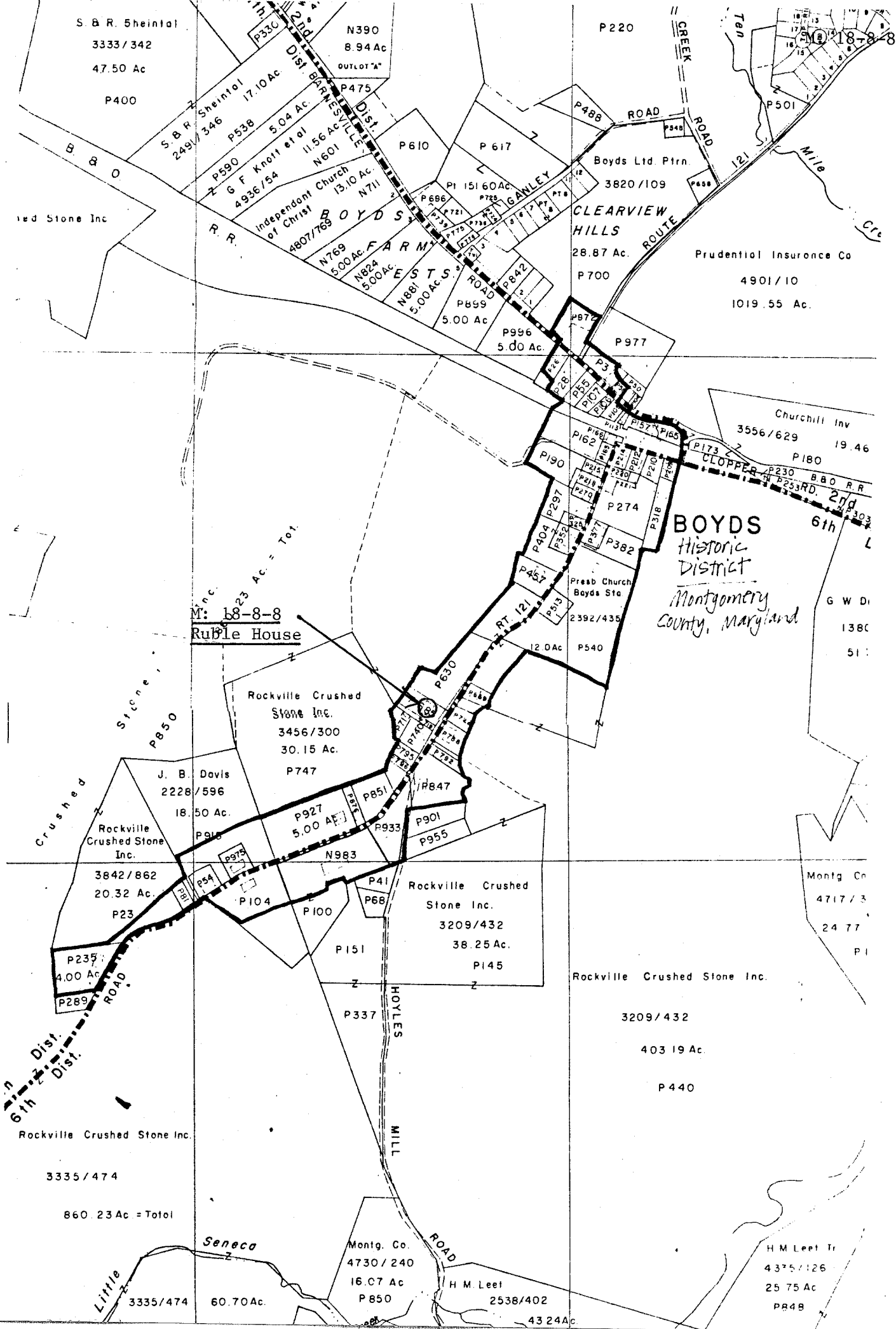
DickersonMaryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438~~

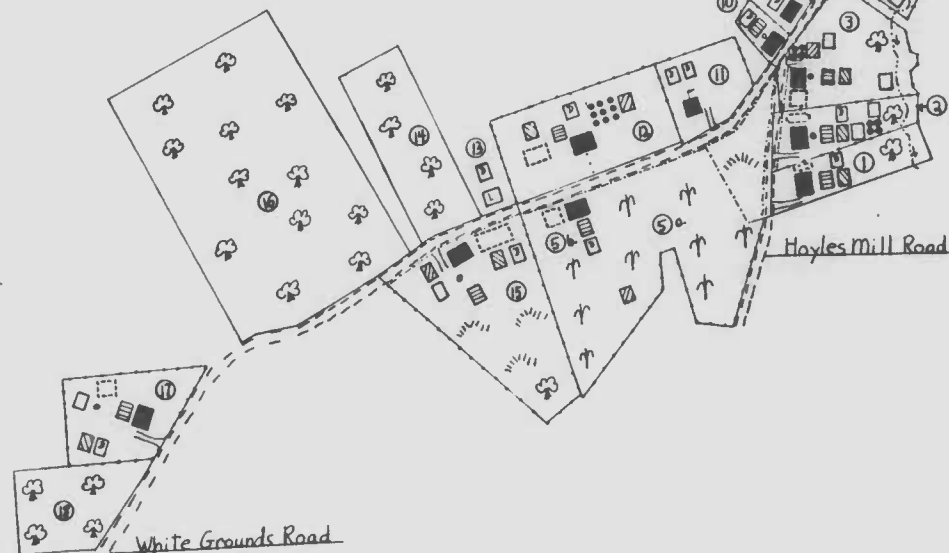
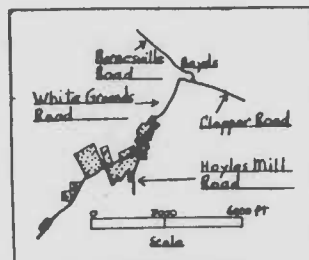
SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510



CHURCH	+
CEMETERY	+
LOT	L
COMMUNITY CENTER	C
STORE	S
POST OFFICE	P
SCHOOL	S
WELLING	W
PRIVY	P
STABLE	S
WATER HOUSE	W
WIND HOUSE	W
WIND HOUSE	W
CORN/POD HOUSE	C
ST. BEN	S
BLISS	B
PASTURE	P
CORN FIELD	C
WATER FIELD	W
ORCHARD	O
FOREST	F
THICKET	T
WELL	W
SPRING	S
STREAM	S
POD	P
PARCEL BOUNDARY	---
FENCED PARCEL BDY.	---
ENCE	---
STREET ROAD	---
LANE	---
PATH	---
STREAM FLOW	→

## Key

- MARTHA CARTER HSTD. 1.00 AC.
- WILLIAM LUCKETT HSTD. 2.00 AC.
- WILLIAM GIBBS HSTD. 3.00 AC.
- DUFFIN-HEBRON HSTD. 1.00 AC.
- ADDISON DUFFIN HSTD. 25.00 AC.
- RENTED HOUSE
- FARM FIELD
- DIGGINS HSTD. 0.50 AC.
- JACOB RUBLE HSTD. (white) 5.00 AC.
- ST. MARK'S M.E. CHURCH 2.00 AC.
- ST. MARK'S PARSONAGE
- JOHN DORSEY HSTD. 0.50 AC.
- BLANCHE WILLIAMS HSTD. 0.50 AC.
- BOYES NEGRO SCHOOL 1.52 AC.
- JOHN BROWN HSTD. 5.00 AC.
- ODD YELLOW'S LODGE
- GEORGE DAVIS HSTD. 6.00 AC.
- GEORGE HAWKINS HSTD. 7.00 AC.
- JAMES WILLIAMS PROP. (white) 36.00 AC.
- JOHN PARKER HSTD. 5.00 AC.
- TIMOTHY CATON PROP. 5.00 AC.
- JOSHUA DUFFIN HSTD. 2.00 AC.
- NATHAN DUFFIN HSTD. 1.00 AC.



## WHITE GROUNDS COMMUNITY, c. 1900-1925

Source  
Steven Doolittle  
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

Oral Informants  
Agnes Coates  
Mae Coates  
Clara Talley

(Jacob Ruble Homestead)

M: 18-8-8

Ruble House

# MEDLEY DIS

## Nº 3.

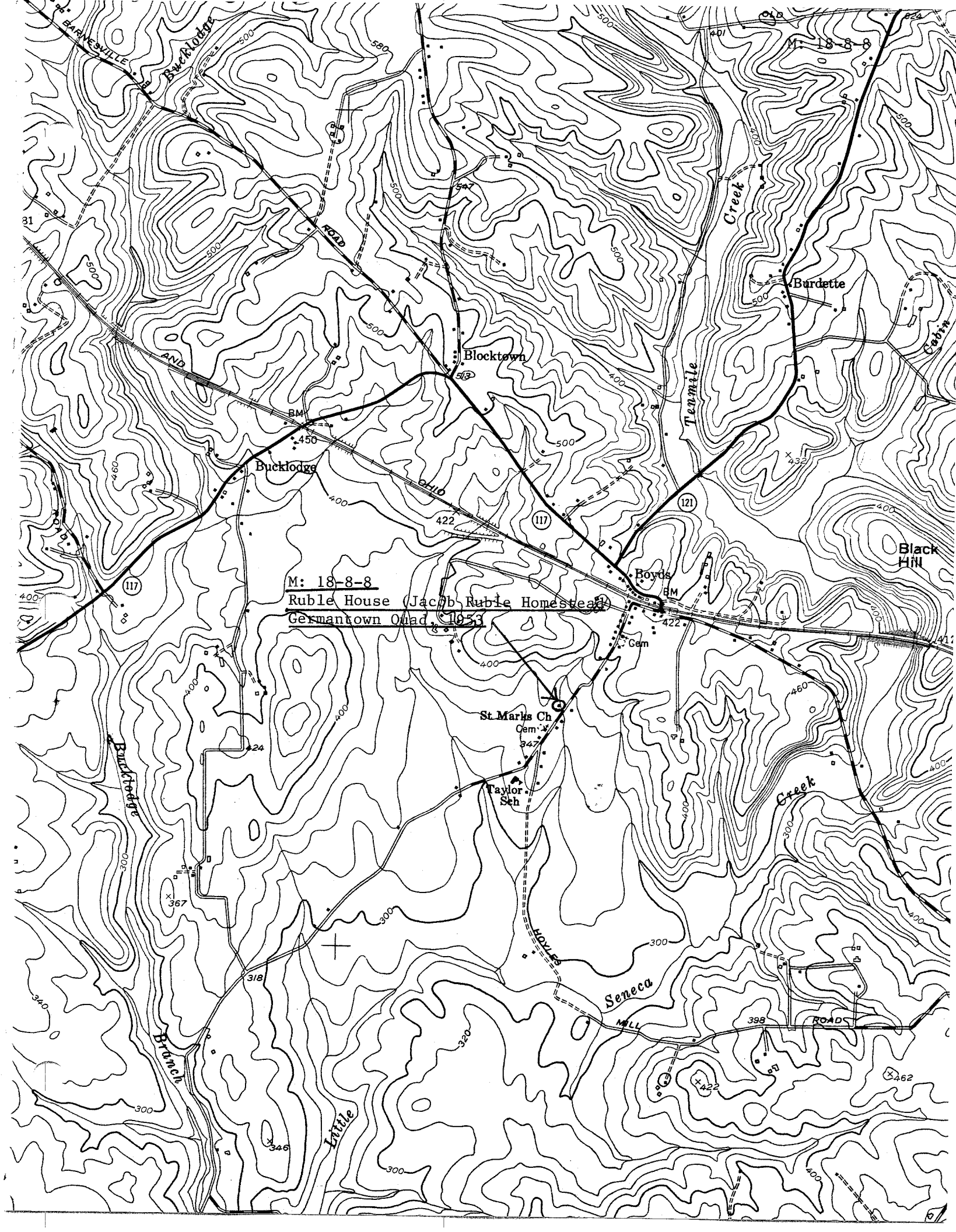
Mont. Co.  
Scale 1 1/4 Inches to a Mile.



Note: The Figures on the Roads represent the Distance in Rods from junctions.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian





M: 18-8-8

Ruble House (Jacob Ruble Homestead)

Germantown Quad



M:18-8-8

Giles [Kubler]

141-31